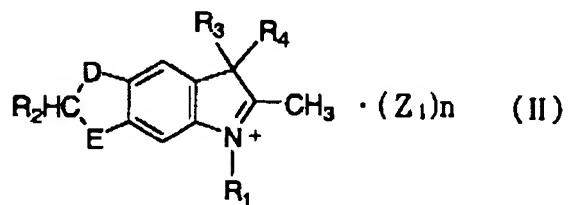


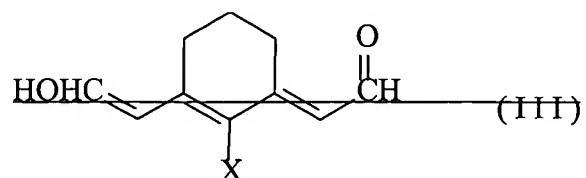
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONIN THE SPECIFICATION:

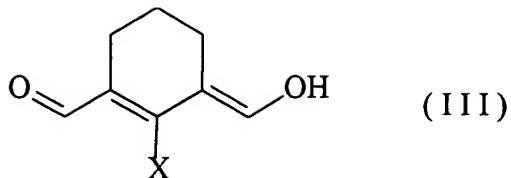
In column 4, line 44, please change the following:

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a method of producing the above polymethine compound of general formula (I) which comprises subjecting an indolenium compound represented by the general formula (II) :

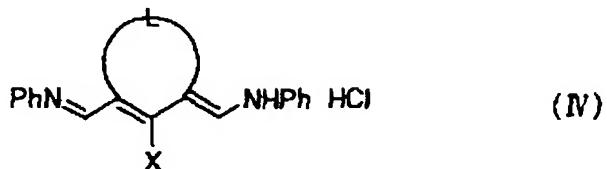


wherein R_1 represents an alkyl group, which may optionally be substituted, R_2 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, R_3 and R_4 each independently represents a lower alkyl group or R_3 and R_4 may combinedly form a cyclic structure, D and E each independently represents an oxygen atom or a methine group, Z_1 represents a charge-neutralizing ion and n represents an integer of 0 or 1, and a diformyl compound represented by the general formula (III) :





wherein X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or a substituted amino group and L is an alkylene group which is required for the formation of a cyclic structure and may optionally be substituted, one or more carbon atoms of which cyclic structure may be replaced by some other atom(s) or atomic group(s), or a dianil compound represented by the general formula (IV) :

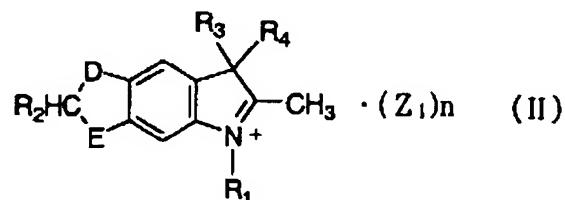


wherein X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or a substituted amino group and L is an alkylene group which is required for the formation of a cyclic structure and may optionally be substituted, one or more carbon atoms of which cyclic structure may be replaced by some other atom(s) or atomic group(s), to condensation reaction in the presence of a fatty acid salt and a dehydrating organic acid.

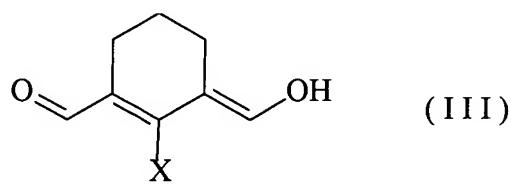
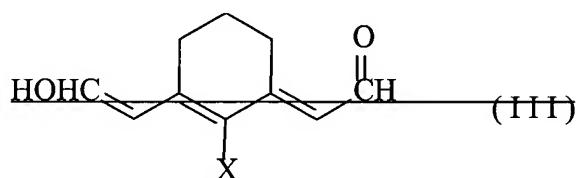
In column 38, line 65, please change the following:

[Method of producing the polymethine compound]

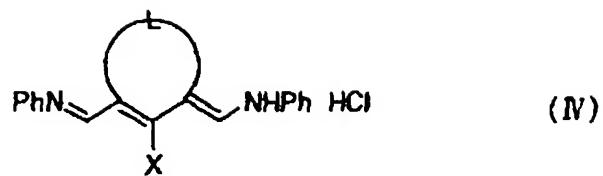
The polymethine compound of the present invention is produced, for example, by subjecting an indolenium compound represented by the general formula (II) and a diformyl compound represented by the general formula (III) or a dianil compound represented by the general formula (IV) to condensation reaction in the presence of a fatty acid salt in a dehydrating organic acid.



(In the above formula, R_1 to R_4 , D , E and Z_1 are as defined above.)



(In the above formula, X and L are as defined above.)



(In the above formula, X and L are as defined above.)